

R E I K O S H I M I Z U
T H E T O P S E C R E T

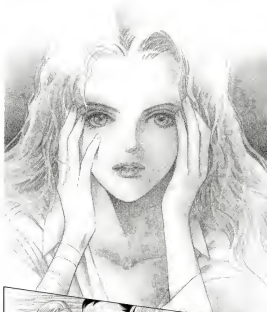






**WHY DID YOU
SHOW ME?!**







P...



OF
COURSE
NOT!
LOOK
WELL,
CHIEF,
NEXT...



NO!

P-P-PLASTIC
SURGERY!
SHE HAD A
PLASTIC
SURGERY
WHILE SHE
WAS IN THE
HOSPITAL!

AND
THEN...

FOR A SECOND, HER LINE
OF VISION SHIFTS TO THE
SLIDING DOOR. PROBABLY
HER FATHER CALLED TO
HER FROM THE
NEXT ROOM.



I'VE
WATCHED
FURTHER...



AT FIRST IT
WAS ONLY
WHEN SHE
WAS ALONE,
THEN EVEN AS
SHE WAS
OUT...

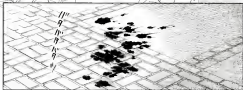
IN THE BEGINNING
SHE HAD RARELY EVER SEEN
HERSELF AS 'A BEAUTY', BUT
WITH TIME THE OCCURRENCE OF
THIS ILLUSION ROSE.



AT THIS
POINT...

HERE, ABOUT HALF A
MONTH PASSED FROM
HER SUICIDE ATTEMPT
FROM WHEN SHE GOT
UP UNTIL SHE WENT TO
SLEEP, EVEN IKUMI'S
REFLECTION IN A
SHOPPING WINDOW
SEEMED LIKE A
SUPERMODEL!









FIRST, THE
OFFENDER
KILLED TWO
PEOPLE
INSIDE THE
SHOP.



WENT
ON
EARTH
...



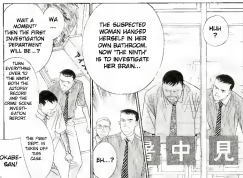
GAH
...

THEN SHE CHASED ONE
WHO RAN AWAY TO THE
SHOPPING DISTRICT.
IT WAS RUSH HOUR,
SO SHE REPEATEDLY
STABBED THE VICTIM AS
THE CROWD WATCHED...
THEN A PRESIDENT GOT
INVOLVED, AND WAS
SEVERELY WOUNDED
AS WELL.









**DON'T WHINE
AROUND,
IT'S BEEN
ALREADY
DECIDED.**





WITHOUT EVEN
GETTING A
FOOT ON THE
CRIME SCENE,
WITHOUT KNOWING
WHERE THE
SUSPECT... THE
CRIMINAL HAS
LIVED...

ARE
YOU
RECORD
ME?!



...WITHOUT
LOOKING AT
HOW THE
VICTIM WAS
KILLED...



SUCH
THING

THEY SIT
AROUND IN A
DARK ROOM
WATCHING
THROUGH THE
BRAIN TISSUE...
IS THAT
POLICE WORK?
IS THAT
INVESTIGATION?

...IT'S NOT
SCIENTIFIC
INVESTIGATION,
IT'S NOTHING
AT ALL...
IT'S...

Three
years
ago

**IT'S
JUST
THE
SAME
AS
PEEPING
ON
PEOPLE!**



EHP





THIS IS SENIOR
SUPERINTENDENT
MAKI, CHIEF OF
SECTION NINE OF
THE POLICE
CRIME
LABORATORY.



SUPERINTENDENT MAKI,
HE HAS BEEN WORKING
AT MPD FIRST
INVESTIGATION
DEPARTMENT FROM THE
START...

DUE TO HIS
DETERMINED
INVESTIGATION
HE BRILLIANTLY
SOLVED THE
BRUTAL MURDER
CASE OF A RETIRED
TOKYO UNIVERSITY
PROFESSOR,
WHICH
WAS LONG
UNSOLVED.

I
KNOW

I'M
SENIOR
SUPER-
INTEN-
DENT.

HAHA.

INSTANTLY MOVING
ONTO THE ELITE
COURSE, HE'S NOW
THE OBJECT OF
ASPIRATION OF THIRTY
THOUSAND POLICE
STAFF COUNTRYWIDE,
INSPECTOR CHANG
YASUFUMI...

TAKING
HIS PAST
ACHIEVEMENTS
INTO ACCOUNT,
LAST YEAR HE
RECEIVED A
MERIT AWARD
AND WAS
SPECIALLY
PROMOTED BY
TWO RANKS.

I'M ALONE HERE
ANYWAY, SO
HOW I LOOK
SHOULDN'T BE A
PROBLEM.

うん
うん
うん

WHEN
YOU GIVE
ME SOME
NEW
UNDER-
WEARS,
I'LL
SHOOTEN
UP

CUT ME
SOME SLACK,
TAKESHIRO-SAN,
I CAN'T EVEN
TAKE A NAP...

I
THINK
IT'S
BOTH.

IS THAT
A SHIRT,
OR A
PALMAM
...?

H..HEY
YOU!



HAVEN'T
YOU HEARD?



ON THE LAST
INVESTIGATION,
ALL THE OTHER
INVESTIGATORS
HAVE DIED.

TWO COMRADES
SUDDENLY, ONE IS IN A
CRIPPLED STATE, THE
REMAINING ONE,



JUST LIKE
THIS...







IT SEEMS YOU
DIDN'T THINK SO
AS WELL...



DON'T BE
AFRAID...



I...
...INS-
PECTOR
OKABE...



...THERE'S NO
POISON IN IT.

While investigating a school killer, Kanuma Kiyotaka responsible for murdering 28 boys.

Chief of Section Nine of the Police Crime Laboratory, Maki, shot to death his subordinate, Suzuki Katsuhiko



During the same investigation, two other inspectors committed suicide under influence of Kanuma's insane memories.



And one was long-term hospitalized in a mentally crippled state

The Ninth is as a matter of fact crumbling down



毎朝新聞

THIS MARCH 10th
MURDER SECTION 9

Inspector Shoots Inspector

Killing
Spree
Inside
'The
Ninth'

A scandal unprecedented in Japanese history of law enforcement shook up the very fundamentals of Scientific Police

8-10
800-1111

Three years ago, 2000 August



WHAT
THE...!
WHAT IS
THIS ALL
ABOUT,
INSPECTOR
GENERAL?!

**ME? IN
THE
NINTH?!**



Was
enough
to
convert
the
people's
distrust
towards
The
Ninth



ME?



An investigation
method that uses the
MRI scan of
a deceased
person's brain
to reproduce
images they've
seen while
alive

The MRI
investigation, newly
introduced to the
Forensic Police,
certainly infringes
on human privacy.
Even before, it had
been facing strong
opposition and
distrust of the
society

But
this
incident,



INSPECTOR MAKES
USE OF WEAPON
WAS DEEMED A
LEGITIMATE
SELF-DEFENCE.
THERE IS NO ROOM
FOR DOUBT WITH THE
SECURITY CAMERA
FOOTAGE AND OTHER
EVIDENCE. AND HE
HAD A RIGHT TO
CARRY THE GUN,
BUT IT WAS STILL...

THE INVESTIGATION OF
THE "KAINUMA CASE"
ALONG WITH FINDING
KAINUMA'S MOTIVE FOR
KILLING THOSE 28 BOYS
AND ANY OF HIS
FURTHER OFFENCES,
HAS NOW BECOME
DISCONTINUED...



...AN
OUTRAGEOUS
FAILURE!

...

THERE'LL
BE TWO
MORE
STAFF
ADDED.

BUT WASN'T THE
INVESTIGATION
AUTHORITY OF THE
'CONVENIENCE STORE
CLERK MURDER
CASE' HANDED OVER
TO THE NINTH JUST
YESTERDAY?

OF COURSE IT
AFFECTS THE POLICE
REPUTATION, BUT IT
ALSO ENDANGERS
THE CONTINUANCE OF
THE NINTH ITSELF.

THE THREE
OF YOU WILL
INVESTIGATE
THAT CASE
UNDER
INSPECTOR
MAY'S
SUPERVISION.

...IS THIS
WHY I WAS
MOVED
THERE...?

AS IT IS,
INSPECTOR MAY'S
'ONE-PERSON
DEPARTMENT' IS IN
A CATASTROPHIC
STATE AND
NON-FUNCTIONING.

...SETTLE IT
DOWN
PROPERLY.

THIS TIME
FOR
SURE.

WON'T THIS TIME
IT'S NOT A VERY
IMPORTANT OR
GRAVE CASE TO
MAKE THE NINTH
STAND OUT, BUT
ESPECIALLY
BECAUSE OF
THAT...



OBSERVE
INSPECTOR
MARIN'S STATE
AND REPORT
IT TO ME IN
DETAIL.

AND ONE
MORE
THING.

....
I'LL
BEAR
THAT IN
MIND.



LISTEN—
NO
MATTER
WHAT,

WAIT A
MOMENT,
GENERAL
INSPECTOR,
WHAT...

IN ORDER TO KNOW
WHETHER HE'S SUITABLE
AS A SECTION CHIEF OR
NOT, I WANT YOU TO
REPORT TO ME DIRECTLY
ANYTHING YOU NOTICE,
BE IT HIS ABILITIES,
MENTAL STATE
OR ELSE.

...
EXCUSE
ME,
WHAT?

WAIT
...



SHOOTING ONE'S
COLLEAGUES —
SUBORDINATES, ON DUTY
HOURS IS SOMETHING...

...THAT SHOULD
HAVE NEVER
HAPPENED!



...EVEN BEFORE THERE WERE VOICES DOUBTING IF HE'S SUITABLE FOR THIS POSITION WITH HIS UNCOOPERATIVE AND SELF-RIGHTEOUS PERSONALITY.

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION HIS PREVIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS AND COMPETENCE, THIS TIME HE WASN'T FOUND AT FAULT BUT...



WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT,

HE'S SEEN THE BRAIN OF KANUMA, WHICH COST THREE OTHER PEOPLE THEIR LIVES.



AND EVEN WITHOUT ALL THIS,



HE MIGHT BE INFLUENCED BY HIS ABNORMAL MEMORIES TOO. HOW CAN WE TELL IF HE'S NOT?









You're
dead.



You're
already
dead.



You're
dead,
Suzuki!





Suzuki!



IS THERE ANY
PROBLEM WITH THE
SECTION CHIEF?







*Kai-
numa!*



Maki-san...



Maki-san...



MA!

UH!





SECTION
CHIEF ?

SHALL I
PUT HIM
THROUGH ?

INSPECTOR
CHASE WOULD
LIKE TO SEE
YOU.



HAVE HIM
WAIT 5 MINUTES,
I'LL CHANGE.





Maki-
san!





COME, I'LL
EXPLAIN THE
OVERVIEW OF
THE CASE.

YES!

SOGA AND
KORKE,
WAS IT?

THE
WORLD
END
MET?

NO
YES?

SATO KAYO (21)



SHIMIZU SHINJI (27)



YAMAZAKI TADASHI (20)



THERE WERE
FOUR VICTIMS
IN TOTAL.

THREE OF
THEM WORKED
IN THE GAME
CONVENIENCE
STORE AS
THE GUILPIT,
KOSIMA ISHINO.



THEN SHE CHASED SATOU KAYOKO WHO WAS TRYING TO RUN AWAY TO THE SHOPPING DISTRICT, AND MURDERED HER BY STABBING HER BACK AND CHEST ABOUT 15 TIMES.

DURING THE INCIDENT, ANOTHER PERSON, A POSSIBLY, GOT INVOLVED AND WAS STABBED AS WELL. HE DIED TWO DAYS LATER.

ON 27TH AUGUST, AT 8PM, 40 YEARS OLD KOJIMA IKUNO KILLED YAMAZAKI TADASHI AND JINNAI SHINOSU WHILE THEY WERE RESTING AT THE KITCHEN FACILITIES. SHE USED A 15CM LONG KITCHEN KNIFE TO STAB THEM OVER 40 TIMES.

IT'S RARE FOR A WOMAN TO COMMIT A MASSACRE LIKE THIS, SO THIS TIME WE AT 'THE NINTH' WERE ASKED TO INVESTIGATE THE MOTIVE AND THE ROOT OF THE INCIDENT.



KOJIMA IKUNO (40)



AFTER KILLING THE FOUR, SHE CAME BACK HOME, AND COMMITTED SUICIDE BY HANGING HERSELF IN THE BATHROOM. IN THE HOUSE THERE WAS ALSO HER FATHER WHO REQUIRES NURSING CARE, BUT DUE TO HIS DEMENTIA GETTING A TESTIMONY WOULD BE DIFFICULT.



Not to mention, isn't it the info we gathered at the First Dept.?

He's good, saying all that without looking at any notes.

Dammit...

HER WORKING ATTITUDE WAS VERY DELICATE AS WELL, AND LAST YEAR, HER PART TIME JOB Hired HER TO BE A REGULAR EMPLOYEE.

FROM HER VISITS TO THE HOSPITAL AND DAYCARE, SHE WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN TAKING GOOD CARE OF HER FATHER.

TYPICALLY IN THE KIND OF GROUP MAGGARE WE'D FIRST SUSPECT HALLUCINATIONS OR DELUSIONS CAUSED BY DRUG ABUSE, BUT THE AUTOPSY SHOWED NO SIGNS OF ANY PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE AND THE LIPS.

TRUKO HAD NO CONSPICUOUS MEDICAL HISTORY, AND OF COURSE NO CRIMINAL RECORD. EVER SINCE SHE HAD LOST HER MOTHER SHE WAS JUGGLING WORK AND LOOKING AFTER HER FATHER.

INSPECTOR OKABE!

—THAT'S IT. THAT WAS THE CASE OUTLINE PROVIDED BY THE FIRST INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT.

—?

HEH ?



AS SOMEONE WHO'S SEEN AND INVESTIGATED THE ACTUAL CRIME SCENE, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO ADD?



AFTER THAT I'D LIKE TO MOVE ON TO THE MRI...?





SATO KAYOKO (18)



YAMAZAKI TAKASHI (20)

...THE VICTIM,
YAMAZAKI
TAKASHI AND
SATO KAYOKO
ATTENDED THE
SAME
UNIVERSITY,

THEN, UH...
FROM THE
INFORMATION
WE'VE
GATHERED...

Did he
read my
depressed
expression?

AND IT SEEMS
THEY WERE
SITTING FROM
AROUND THE
SPRING...



THEN
KAYOKO
STARTED
WORKING AT
THE SAME
PART-TIME
JOB AS
TAKASHI.



FROM
THE
STAFF,

KAYOKO
WAS...

THERE WAS A
SCENE WITNESSED BY
ANOTHER PART-TIMER,
WHO SAW KAYOKO AND
DAIKI GIBBERING...
...OR RATHER, KAYOKO
BEING ONE-SIDEDLY
ANGRY AT DAIKI.



—ALRIGHT, THEN
FIRSTLY LET'S PLAY
THE IMAGES FROM
KAYOKO'S BRAIN AND
VERIFY THAT.

TURN
TO THE
SCREEN
HERE.

KOKOI
SOKAI!



...THIS
METHOD
WILL
BE
QUICKER.

MAK...
SECTION
CHIEF!

RATHER
THAN
PHOTOS
AND
HEARSAY...

WA...
...WHAT A
MISTAKE!
THERE IS
STILL...

THERE IS
STILL SOME
INFORMATION
IN REPORT
FROM THE
FRONT...!



WHAT...
?

WHAT?!
THEN WHY DID
YOU HAVE ME...











The girly clothes unfit for her age

Her lack of confidence, when she can't even look eye to eye with Kiyoko...

Muko with her plump figure and no make-up...

The blushes and wrinkles on her face



Her restless gestures and mannerisms easily betray these makeshift lies.



The real...

All the information and pictures we gathered at the First Dept. became nothing but rubbish

Kayoko's view of
Miuo was even
harsher than reality.
These pictures make
her disgust towards
the woman
apparent.



A weirdly dressing
middle-aged woman
with lying habit led
for a younger man,
and killed him and his
lover. The victims
weren't reading.



What more
is there to
investigate?

Aren't the
pictures we
saw today
enough?

We could see
so clearly how
she murdered
the two!



Do
we
need
to
see
Fukushima's
or Maki's
brains
as
well?



Pictures
from a
person's
brain are
subjective.
They lack
objectivity.



The verdict

...

If we were talking
in terms of a trial,
Kayoko's brain
we saw today
would fall on the
'prosecution' side.



Is something
we shouldn't
give so easily
before seeing
the 'defender'
side -
Ikuko's brain.



What
for...





Everyone is
already dead—



What are
you trying
this hard
for?



Because
when
they're
dead?



It's because they
are already dead.



That's
why.

That's
why.

There is
no one left
to tell us
about what
happened.



I understand that 'the Ninth' is necessary to clarify the difficult cases that would be left unresolved otherwise.

But—



Unlike Section Chief I can't—

SECTION CHIEF?

SECTION CHIEF WAIT



People looking at others with such cold eyes.

These pictures full of hatred and revulsion—

CHIEF WAIT WAIT WAIT

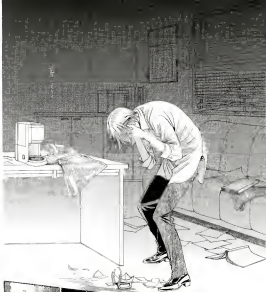
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SECTION CHIEF?

MAY I COME IN...?

CHIEF
PAGE 7













CHIEF!





CHIEF!







HELLO?
SORRY,
I'M
BUSY
RIGHT
NOW?



A CAR...
NO, YES...



EMERGENCY?
WHAT IS IT?

THERE IS A
PERSON HURT,
I HAVE TO
CALL DR...
I HAVE TO CALL
EMERGENCY!





'...Whether he's
suitable as a
Section Chief
or not'

INSPECTOR
OKABE!









ALL RIGHT,
MOVE IT
OUT!

QUICKLY
!



INS-
PECTOR
GENERAL!

INSPECTOR
CHABE.



INSPECTOR
CHABE.

I'M
SORRY TO
MAKE
SUCH A
BIG DEAL
OUT OF IT
ON THE
VERY
FIRST
DAY...

I WAS REALLY
CONFUSED FOR
A MOMENT,
AND WHILE THE
GUEN HIMSELF
DOESN'T LOOK
VERY SERIOUS,
JUST TO BE
SURE, I...



WHAT DID
YOU GO TO
SUPERINTEN-
DENT AWAY?



HUH?



I MEAN ...

CHIEF!

CHIEF!

UHH ...

NO... THAT WAS...

IS THIS YOUR DOING?!

WHY DID YOU DO THAT?!





INSPEC-
TOR,



I
SEE.



WAS HIS
SUPERINTENDENT
WAS INJURED?
PLEASE EXPLAIN SO I
COULD UNDERSTAND.

INSPEC-
TOR
OKAY?



...AND
EYEWITNESS
TESTIMONIES
FROM PEOPLE
AROUND CAN BE
UNRELIABLE...

CIRCUM-
STANTIAL
EVIDENCE
...







IT
REALLY
IS
TRUE...

A
A



WE STILL HAVE A
FEW MINOR THINGS
TO CHECK, SO YOU'LL
BE HOSPITALIZED
FOR TWO OR THREE
DAYS.



IT'LL
PROBABLY
HURT FOR A
WHILE.

BUT SINCE THE
FIRST AID WAS
GIVEN PROPERLY,
I THINK IT
SHOULDN'T LEAVE
ANY SCARS.
YOU'RE LUCKY.



**I DIDN'T
COVER FOR
YOU!**

**WHY DID YOU
COVER FOR ME
EVEN THOUGH YOU
DISLIKE ME?**

**IT'S
JUST...**

**OR AT LEAST I DIDN'T
MEAN TO COVER FOR AN
ANNOYING GUY LIKE YOU.
NOT A BIT!**

I DIDN'T,

**I
KNOW
...**

**WHY DID
YOU GO TO
SUPERIN-
TENDENT
MART?**



THESE
EYES
WHEN
THEY
DECIDED
I WAS
GUILTY.



HOW THE
WORDS
CAN BE
POWERLESS
...



NOW I
REALLY
KNOW,



I
DIDN'T
DO IT!

RELIEVE MR.
DETECTIVE!

I
REALLY
DIDN'T
DO IT!

...WHEN THEY
THINK THAT THE
SUSPECT IS
TELLING NOTHING
BUT LIES FROM
THE START.



THESE
EYES
ARE...

HOW
THEY
LOOK
...



AND HOW
DETECTIVES
NEVER
LISTEN TO
THE WORDS
OF A
SUSPECT.

THAT
THEY'D
DEEMED
GUILTY.



HOW
UNRELIABLE
CONFESSIONS
CAN BE...

WELL THERE
WAS ALSO THE
PART WHERE I
DIDN'T KNOW
HOW TO EXPLAIN
YOUR SITUATION
BACK THEN...

I DIDN'T!

...IN THAT MOMENT
EVEN I THOUGHT...

...
BUT...

'I WANT TO TAKE MY
BRAIN TISSUE OUT
AND MAKE THEM SEE
FOR THEMSELVES.'

...THAT'S
EXACTLY
WHAT I
THOUGHT.



NO MATTER
HOW GENIUS
YOU ARE,
YOUR BODY
IS STILL JUST
HUMAN.

SLEEPING
PILLS.
THEY'RE
THE MILD,
NON-PRE-
SCRIPTION
ONES.

THE
PAINKILLERS
ARE
WORKING
SO...

DOES
YOUR
HAND
HURT?

THAT'S
GOOD.
TAKE THESE
TOO.



THOSE ARE
ILLUSIONS.

IF YOU DON'T
SLEEP AT NIGHT,
YOUR BRAIN WILL
START SEEING
DREAMS WHILE
AWAKE.

TAKE THESE
AND REST
WELL.

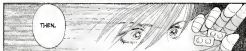
IF YOU'RE NOT
EVEN TAKING NAPS,
IT'S OBVIOUS YOUR
EXHAUSTED BRAIN
WILL MAKE YOU SEE
GHOSTS.



IT'S FINE.
YOU WON'T BE
SEEING ANY
KAINUMA
GHOSTS
ANYMORE.



FOR
SURE.



THEN.



DON'T
LOOK SO
SURPRISED.



ONCE YOU'RE
BACK IN SHAPE,
WE'LL INVESTI-
GATE TADASHI'S
AND IKUKO'S
BRAINS.



...I REALIZED I
WANTED TO FIND
THE TRUTH YOU
CAN'T DEDUCE
FROM JUST
EVIDENCE.

...SOME-
HOW...

THE TRUTH IS,
JUST A WHILE
AGO I THOUGHT
THAT MAYBE THE
MIND WASN'T
FOR ME,
AND I EVEN
WROTE A
TRANSFER
REQUEST,
BUT...



I STARTED TO
WANT TO SEE
THE ANSWER
FOR MYSELF.

WHY DID KOJIMA
RUKO TOOK THE
LIVES OF THOSE
FOUR PEOPLE IN
SUCH A BRUTAL
WAY?







TADASHI
WAS
GIVING
IKUKO
SOME
PILLS!

HUH?



NO DRUG
REACTIONS
CAME OUT IN
THE AUTOPSY,
SO I THOUGHT
WE COULD
EXCLUDE THAT
POSSIBILITY,
BUT...



WIP SOME
ALLER-
GICATE
OR
IMAGINE
SOME-
THING
DUE TO
PREGNANT

TADASHI HAD
TAKEN PART IN SOME
MEDICINE-RELATED
RESEARCH AT
THE UNIVERSITY...
HE MIGHT HAVE HAD
SOMETHING THAT
WOULDN'T HAVE
SHOWED UP IN
REGULAR BLOOD
TEST? MAYBE IT'D
COME UP IF WE
TESTED IT AGAIN?



IN THE
IMAGE FROM
KAYOKO'S
BRAIN
WE SAW
TODAY...



OR...
IT MIGHT
HAD BEEN
THE
OPPOSITE

HMM?

NO WAY.

INSPECTOR
CHIEF.

**NO,
NO WAY!
TAKE THE
PILLS AND GO
TO SLEEP,
CHIEF!**

LET'S SEE
TADASHI'S
AND
IKUKO'S
DRIVING
RIGHT
NOW.





THIS IS FROM
5 YEARS AGO,
WHEN DRUKO
WAS TAKEN TO
THE HOSPITAL
AFTER A SUICIDE
ATTEMPT.



DRUKO'S
FAMILY
SITUATION
FROM THAT
PERIOD IS
BEING
CHECKED
NOW.

WHY
WOULD
SHE...



IN HER AUTOPSY
NUMEROUS
CUTTING SCARS
WERE IDENTIFIED
ON HER WRISTS.
IT CAN BE
ASSUMED THAT
DURING THAT TIME
HER SELF-HARMING
BEHAVIOR HAD
BEEN A COMMON
OCCURRENCE.

CART





IT'S
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
LIKE THIS
THAT THE
INSPECTOR
GENERAL
DOUBTS
YOUR
ADEQUACY
AS THE
SECTION
CHIEF—

IT'D BE A
BOTHER TO
EVERYONE
AROUND
YOU! TAKE
CARE OF
YOURSELF
PROPERLY!

I WAS JUST
FINALLY CLEARED OF
SUSPICION OF BEING
VIOLENT TO YOU.
IF YOU WOBBLE
AROUND AND FAINT,
I'LL GET IN
TROUBLE AGAIN!



IF
YOU
MAY,



...GM
...



INSPECTOR
DRAKE,

ALL...

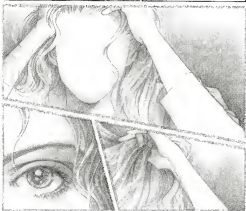
COULD YOU
REPORT TO US
ABOUT IKUNOYA'S
HOME ENVIRONMENT
IN RELATION TO THE
CASE?













COULDN'T SEE
ANYTHING
BUT THE
'BEAUTIFUL
IKUKO'.

AT
THIS
POINT,
HER
BRAIN,



YOUR CLOTHING
CAN BE WORN
REGARDLESS
OF AGE AND
BODYTYPE.
SO EVEN OUR
PLUS SIZE
CLIENTS CAN
TREAT

OH,
HOW
LOVELY!
LIKE A
PRIN-
CESS!



WAAAAH!

'IT FITS
YOU
VERY
WELL.'



LOVE
PRINCE 40





WHY
IS THIS
HAPPENING?
IS THIS
ALL AN
ILLUSION?

THE
STATE OF
SKUKO'S
BRAIN AT
THAT TIME
WAS...



STRESSED



IT CAN
CREATE
ANOTHER
'PERSONALITY'
OPPOSITE TO THE
REAL ONE...
MAKE YOU HEAR
SOUNDS THAT
DON'T EXIST...

WHEN HUMAN
BRAIN IS
CONSTANTLY
AND SEVERELY
STRESSED, IT WILL
TAKE VARIOUS
PROTECTIVE
MEASURES TO
PROTECT THE
'SELF'...



AND
SOME-
TIMES
IT MAKES
OUTS IN
YOUR
MEMORY

...OR MAKE
IT SEEM LIKE
SOMEONE
WHO'S DEAD
IS BACK
FROM THE
GRAVE...

THE BRAIN
CREATES A
FICTIONAL
WORLD AND
WHEN IT
STARTS
TAKING
REFUGE
IN IT...



IT PROTECTS
ITSELF FROM
EVERYTHING
PAINFUL,
ANYTHING
THAT CAUSES
SUFFERING...



IT
CANNOT
...



LIVE
OUTSIDE IT
ANYMORE.



THIS IS A
SIMULATION
FROM THE MOON
OF THE DAY
IKINO SAW THE
ILLUSION FOR
THE FIRST TIME.





WHEN SHE CAME
BACK FROM HER
WORK AT THE
CONVENIENCE STORE,
HER FATHER HAD
SCATTERED HIS OWN
POORS AROUND THE
FLOOR AND WALLS.

....
LONE!
....!!

....!

I..IS
THAT
...?



SHE
THEN
CHANGED
FROM HER
OWN DIRTY
CLOTHES AND
WENT OUT TO
BUY SOCKS
FOR THE
SLEEPER.

IKUKO SPENT
AROUND TWO HOURS
CLEANING HER
SOILED FATHER
AND HIS ROOM,
HAND-WASHING
THE CLOTHES AND
DOING LAUNDRY.



"IT SO TALLER NOW, WHEN THE YOUNGER ONE IS STILL SO SMALL."

"SEEK."



WHAT THE!
WHERE ARE YOU
LOOKING?!

"EEK!"





WHY?



**WHAT
AM I
LIVING
FOR?!**



**IN ONE
YEAR,
IN FIVE
AND
IN TEN
YEARS,
WILL I
STILL BE
JUST
DOING
FATHER'S
DIRTY
LAUNDRY?**



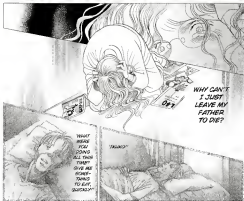
**WHY
AM I
HERE?**

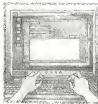
**WHY
WAS I
BORN?**

WHY?



**WHAT'S
GOING
TO
HAPPEN
AFTER
THEN?**





**'REALLY,
YOU'RE ALWAYS
SO CLUMSY AND
DISORGANIZED!'**



**IN THE EVENING,
SHE WROTE THIS
COMMENT ON A BLOG
SHE OFTEN VISITED,
BUT IN THE END SHE
DELETED IT WITHOUT
SUBMITTING.**

COMMENTS

**What am I living for?
Why am I here?
Why was I born?!**



**AS A RESULT
OF THAT DAY,
SHE STARTED TO
SEE THE ILLUSION...
SHE CREATED
THIS GO-TO-SPEAK
'BEAUTIFUL FANTASY
WORLD' AND BEGAN TO
CRAVE ITS PEACE AND
TRANQUILITY.**





TRUKONG
AND STARTED
TO TRANSLATE
THEIR CRUEL
REMARKS INTO
'BEAUTIFUL'
AND 'NICE'.



'HEY, YOUR
CLOTHES ARE
A BIT...'



Nice

'OH, IS
THIS A
NEW OUTFIT
AGAIN? IT'S
LOVELY!'



She made
her whole
surroundings
into something
fear and more
pleasant to
herself.



AND
THIS WAS
PROBABLY
...

'REALITY'
AND
'ILLUSION'
LOST THEIR
MEANING TO
HER.

SHE
CONTINUED
TO WORK
PROPERLY
AT THE STORE,
AND BLENDED
WITHOUT
DIFFICULTY
INTO THE
SOCIAL LIFE.

BUT
SHE DIDN'T
MOVE TO HER
PARALLEL
UNIVERSE
COMPLETELY.



SINCE SHE
STARTED TO MIX
SOME ELEMENTS
OF HER ILLUSIONS
AND FICTITIAL EVENTS
INTO HER SPEECH,
IT WAS AROUND THAT TIME
THAT HER COWORKERS
STARTED TO CALL IT
'A LYING HABIT' AND
HER AN 'ALWAYS
DREAMING GIRL'.
THEY WERE GOSSIPING
ABOUT HER ECCENTRIC
STORIES AND CLOTHES,
BUT...



...THE
HAPPIEST.

...WHEN
SHE
WAS...



In
her
whole
life

And my
beautiful
room.

The mirror
reflects the
beautiful me.

I mean children's
faces change
so quickly...

I'm a little lonely
sometimes, but soon
I'll be able to see
them as a little while
go for now I have
to also make a
new friend
Soon



I want to meet them quickly
my husband and what about for work,
and our favorite children
Are they in England? Or France?

I can't really remember their faces,
but they surely look like the
kids that star in movies.



Soon...



...AND THE ONE WHO DESTROYED HER DREAMY BALANCE WAS ONE OF THE VICTIMS...



THIS 'BEAUTIFUL FANTASY WORLD' WAS NECESSARY FOR IKUKU TO SURVIVE ALONE... IN REALITY, EVER SINCE SHE STARTED SEEING THE ILLUSION SHE HASN'T CUT HER WRISTS EVEN ONCE.

IT WAS
PROBABLY
BECAUSE HE
HAD AN INTEREST
IN NURSING AND
MEDICAL CARE,
BUT HE WAS THE
KINDNESS OF ALL
THE PEOPLE SHE
KNEW, MAYBE
MORE SO THAN
HER OWN
FATHER

UNLIKE
OTHER
COWORKERS,
HE NEVER
SPOKE 'LL
OF HER
BEHIND HER
BACK.

FROM
WHAT HE
SHE ON
THE MRI,
FROM THE
START HE
WAS VERY
KIND TO
TRUONG.

...YAMAZAKI
TAKASHI.



HE GENUINELY
CARED ABOUT
HER AND
HER FUTURE,

AND OFTEN
GAVE HER
ADVICE
ABOUT
NURSING.

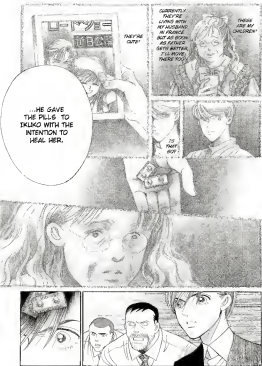


IT'S NO
PROBLEM,
ALWAYS
CALL ME IF
YOU NEED
ANYTHING.

AND
BECAUSE
HE WAS
WORRIED
ABOUT
HER LIVING
IN HER
ILLUSORY-
ARY WORLD.

IT'S
EASIEST TO
UNDERSTAND
WHEN YOU
WATCH THE
MRI IMAGES
FROM HIM,
TAKING AND
KAYAKO
SEE-BY-SEE.





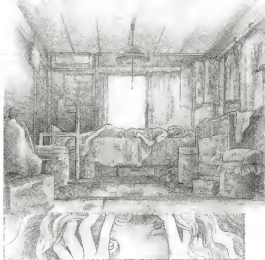




THANK
YOU!!







"TURN AWAY
FROM YOUR
CARELESSNESS!"

"THIS
ALL IS
JUST
YOUR
FANTASY!"



"LISTEN,
YOU ARE
NOT ALLOWED
TO
TURN AWAY
FROM
YOUR
CARELESSNESS!"

"FACE
IT PROPERLY!"



"YOU HAVE
TO FACE
THE
REALITY!"



YOU'RE
TAKING CARE OF
YOUR FATHER,
WHAT WILL
HAPPEN IN THE
FUTURE IF YOU
DON'T ALL
TOGETHER?
I'LL HELP YOU
SO LET'S GO
OUR BEST!

IT MAY BE
HARD IN THE
BEGINNING
BUT YOU
CAN'T KEEP
ON ESCAPING
TO THE
"FANTASY
WORLD"



FROM
NOW ON,
YOU'LL
KEEP
WORKING
AND
SUPPORTING
YOUR
FATHER,
RIGHT?

"YES! YOU
WORKED
HARD AND
FINALLY
BECAME A
FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEE!"



"IN
THE
FUT-
URE?"

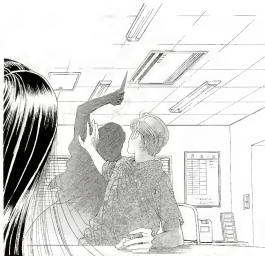


WHAT
WILL
HAPPEN?

YOU HAVE
TO HELP
HIM WITH
BATHING
AND TOILET,
IF YOU
DON'T..."



WHAT
WOULD
HAPPEN
THEN?





'...A
FUTURE.'

'I DON'T
NEED...'



RAYOROV

HEY!
LOOK
HERE!
HEY!

RAYOROV

'HEY!
HANG IN
THERE! THE
AMBULANCE IS
ON ITS WAY!
HOLD ON!'



'...I
DON'T
NEED A
REALITY
LIKE THIS!'

大人間
あいつ







INSPECTOR
CHASE,

I
HAD MY
EXAM-
NATIONS
EARLIER.

WHAT?!

MRI IS
INDEED
AMAZING!
THE NINTH
IS AMAZING!
BUT CHIEF,
YOU TOO...

...I WAS
WRONG AND
PREJUDICED
TO DECIDE
THAT BEFORE
WATCHING
HER MRI!



I'M
SORRY FOR
MAKING YOU
WORRY.

RATHER THAN
STAYING IN
THE HOSPITAL
ALONE, I FEEL
MORE AT EASE
WORKING HERE.

BUT,

...WHEN I'M
ALONE I END UP
OVERTHINKING
THINGS.

BECAUSE...

Until
then,

And that the
person who's
called that friend
was none other
than the Chef
himself.

It was as if I
forgot that not
even a month
has passed since
he's lost his
closest friend.

TO THE INSTITUTION WHERE DRUGO'S FATHER WAS TRANSFERRED TO. HE'S IN GOOD ENOUGH SHAPE TO TALK, SO I'M GOING TO EXPLAIN THE INCIDENT TO HIM.



YOU COMING TOO?

RIGHT,

...

That it hurt him so much he kept seeing illusions until now—

...LIL... BUT WASN'T HE COGNITIVELY IMPAIRED?

HE IS...

...LIL... BUT WASN'T HE COGNITIVELY IMPAIRED?



HE MUST FEEL VERY ANXIOUS...

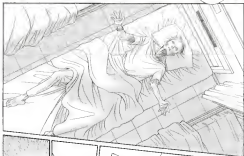


...BUT HE'S STILL HER ONLY RELATIVE. SURELY WITH HER SUDDENLY GONE, AND AFTER BEING TRANSFERRED TO AN UNKNOWN INSTITUTION,



AS TO HOW MUCH HE CAN UNDERSTAND OF WHAT WE TELL HIM...

IT'S ALSO OUR DUTY TO INFORM HIM OF THE SUSPICIONS WE HAVE TOWARDS HIS ONLY DAUGHTER.



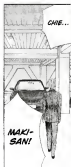


MY NICEST
AND MOST
BEAUTIFUL
DAUGHTER...

IKUKO,



INSPEC-
TOR
CHASE,







REIKO SHIMIZU

秘 密

2008

特別編 Copy Cat

THE TOP SECRET

96 480 20824 34308 789 494 837 744

Akita
Prefecture
Miyama
City

Another Household Slaughter



IS IT THE SAME CULPRIT?

Unsettling
resonance
inside.
The local
laboratory
the case



HERE
IT IS,
NAKI-
SAN!



ON THE LEFT
MONITOR IS
THE IMAGE
FROM THE
TIME OF THE
CRIME.



AND
THIS...

THIS IS A
RETRIEVED
IMAGE FROM
AN OLD BRITISH
TV PROGRAM
CALLED 'MURDER
CASE' THAT THE
SUSPECT SAW
FIVE YEARS AGO.

5 YEARS AGO V

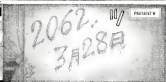


PRESENT V





THE 'HOUSEHOLD MASSACRE CASE' THAT SENT CHILLS DOWN THE SPINES OF THE JAPANESE IN THE MIST OF SPRING HANAMI FESTIVITIES...



...THAT IT
WAS A
COPYCAT
KILLER...



ACK!

YES?

AS IF
TO PRO-
VOKE
THE
POLICE
AND...



AND THERE
IS ALSO
SMOKING
AT THE
CRIME
SCENE.

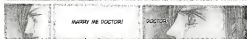
THE WAY OF
ENTRY
THROUGH
THE SECOND
FLOOR WINDOW,
THE WEAPON,
SCRIBBLING THE
DATE OF THE
MURDER ON THE
WALL...

THERE ARE
QUITE A LOT OF
SIMILARITIES -
THE LIVING
CONDITIONS OF
THE TARGETED
FAMILIES.



GATHER
THOSE
SIMILAR-
ITIES INTO
A REPORT.







AND WHAT WAS
HER REPLY?
DID I HEAR IT?

DID I
BUY IT
ALREADY?

HMM?

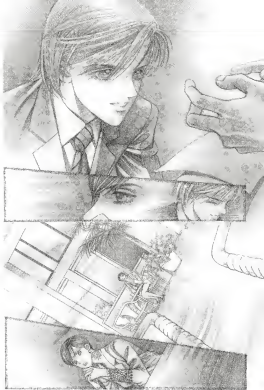
?

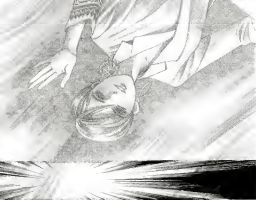
A RING?

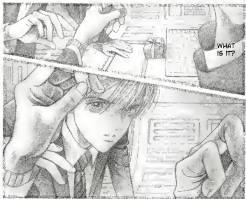














WHAT'S
WRONG
SUZUKI...?













From the above similarities we can surmise that the suspect was inspired to commit serial murders|

after being strongly influenced by a tv program 'Muder Case' he had seen 5 years before. Therefore, |



it's a copycat crime. |

1995-2007

15 YEARS
AGO



JUST BECAUSE
OF SOMETHING
LIKE THAT...



JUST
BECAUSE
OF THAT.



culprit's motive



Why

Do you really want to delete this file?

Cancel

OK



OK



WHY?







HE ONLY COPIED THE METHOD - THERE IS NO WAY THAT SEEING A MOVIE WHERE SOMEONE IS STABBED WITH A CUTLER MADE HIM WANT TO KILL SOMEONE!

IT'S JUST LIKE THE GUILPT WHO THINKS 'I WANT TO KILL THAT PERSON' AND BY CHANCE USES A CUTLER LIKE HE SAW IN A MOVIE THE DAY BEFORE!



NOT TO MENTION THAT IT'S WEIRD FOR HIM TO REPLICATE NOW THE CRIME HE WAS INFLUENCED BY 5 YEARS AGO.

IF WE SAY THAT JUST BECAUSE HAD SEEN THE 'MURDER CASE' IN TV HE HAD DECIDED TO KILL WHOLE FAMILIES, THEN ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAD SEEN IT, SHOULD'VE HAD BECOME MURDERERS.



...TO LUMP ALL THESE BRUTAL KILLINGS INTO ONE BOX OF 'COPYCAT CRIMES' AND MAKE AWAY WITH IT WOULD BE..

JUST LIKE THIS...



A
BIT

RECKLESS,
DON'T YOU
THINK?



...



THERE MUST
BE SOMETHING.

SOMETHING IN
THE SHOW HE HAD
SEEN ALL THOSE
YEARS AGO THAT
MADE HIM ACT
IN REALITY.



ACK!



PLEASE
ALLOW ME
TO INVESTIGATE
THIS CASE FROM
THE START ONCE
AGAIN



THE
KILLER'S
ONLY
MOTIVE.



PEOPLE DON'T
JUST GET
'IMPRINTED'
TO DO SUCH
THINGS AS
KILLING
OTHERS!

HE STARTED
TO WANT
TO KILL
FAMILIES
HIMSELF?

BECAUSE
HE SAW
A FAMILY
MURDERED
IN TV,

THERE IS
NO WAY FOR
PEOPLE TO
BE THIS
SIMPLE...



THEY
ARE
MORE...



MORE
...





HE MUST
HAVE A
PROPER
MOTIVE OF
HIS OWN!

THERE
MUST BE
SOMETHING!



DIFFERENT
!

Suzuki-san
and I are...



BECAUSE
IT'S COM-
PLETELY
SEPARATE
PEOPLE...!



"YOU
RESEMBLE
AM GO
MUCH."



"HE LOOKS
A BIT LIKE
AM."

I THOUGHT THAT
HE RETURNED
FROM THE GRAVE
TO KILL ME

WHEN I
FIRST
SAW YOU



BECAUSE HE
DIDN'T HAVE
HIS GLASSES
ON, I WAS
SURE IT WAS
KATSUMIHO





IF YOU'RE SO SURE,
THEN REVIEW
ALL THE DATA
FROM THOSE
5 YEARS.

I GIVE YOU
TWO DAYS
TO SUBMIT
THE WHOLE
REPORT.



MA...!



AND PROVE
IT TO ME BY
SHOWING ME
THE EVIDENCE
THAT IT'S
DIFFERENT!



GOT
IT!

WAL... MARI-SAN!
IT TAKES AT LEAST HALF A DAY TO
WATCH DATA FROM A MONTH!
TWO DAYS IS JUST IMPOSSIBLE, GIVE
HIM A WEEK...
OR EVEN 4 DAYS!

I'M
TELLING
YOU IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE,
AOKI!!

ALRIGHT!
THANK YOU
VERY MUCH,
MAKI-SAN!

DON'T SAY
THAT IT'S
'JUST FIVE
YEARS',
YOU...!

OKABE

IT'S FINE,
OKABE-SAN.
IT'S NOT AS IF
IT'S 50 YEARS.
IT'S JUST 5
YEARS!

AH,
ALSO
...

I'M NOT SAYING IT
HAS TO BE AOKI ALONE.
IF ALL MEMBERS TAKE IT
UP, IT SHOULD BE FAIRLY
DOABLE, RIGHT?

BUT I'LL
CHECK THE
REPORT THE
FIRST THING
WHEN I COME
BACK, SO...

I'LL BE AWAY
FOR THE
CONFERENCE
THE NEXT
TWO DAYS,



**DO
IT!**



**WE'LL DO
OUR BEST!
PLEASE
HAVE A
SAFE TRIP!**

**THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH!**



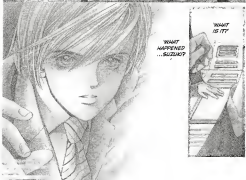




Suzuki-san
didn't
propose
to her.



After that
he didn't
give her
that ring.



WHAT
HAPPENED
...SUZUKI?



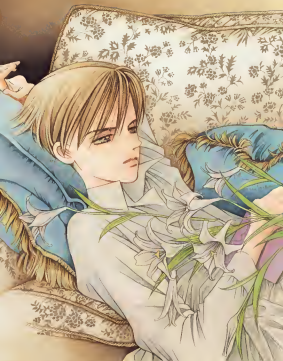
WHAT
IS IT?

But,

But I...









秘 2008 音

THE TOP SECRET

RETRO PHOTO

Isionha Scarps

Transitional Type 1a Scarps

1000m wide

100m high

Can be seen from the road, but the scarp is
not visible from the road. The scarp is
not visible from the road.

www.isionha.com

Isionha Scarps